

STATINTL

**THE U-2 PLANE FLIGHTS—LETTERS
BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
AND SENATOR FULBRIGHT**

Mr. FULBRIGHT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed at this point in the Record a letter from the Secretary of State and my reply thereto.

There being no objection, the letters were ordered to be printed in the Record, as follows:

JULY 1, 1960.

Hon. J. W. FULBRIGHT,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: During my testimony before your committee on May 27, a number of questions were asked about a decision not to suspend the U-2 flights because the summit conference was pending. On reading the transcript, it seems to me the testimony has left that point unclear. Accordingly, I should like to take this opportunity to clarify it, and would appreciate it if this letter could be made a part of your hearing record.

There was a decision not to suspend the flights. The President so stated in his May 25 radio-television talk, when he said "the question was really whether to halt the program and thus forgo the gathering of important information that was essential and that was likely to be unavailable at a later date. The decision was that the program should not be halted." While I did not participate in that decision, the President was nevertheless fully aware of my view and I thoroughly agree—as I indicated in my testimony—that the decision was a wise one.

This will clear up any uncertainty on the point which your hearing record may reflect. Most sincerely,

CHRISTIAN A. HERTZ.

JULY 2, 1960.

Hon. CHRISTIAN A. HERTZ,
Secretary of State,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: Thank you for your letter of July 1 directed toward clarifying the committee's record regarding whether there was an affirmative decision not to suspend U-2 operations in light of the approach of

summit conferences. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to include your letter in the hearing record, because that record has already been published. Your letter will, of course, become a part of the permanent records of the Foreign Relations Committee, and I shall also have it printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, along with this reply.

With all due respect, I do not think your letter clarifies the point very much. It states that "there was a decision not to suspend the flights" and quotes the President's speech of May 25 to the same effect. The President's speech was, of course, before the committee at the time of the hearings, and you quoted it then.

At that time, you also agreed that no specific decision not to suspend the flights was taken (p. 68). I infer from your letter that such a decision was in fact taken, that you did not participate in it, but that you agreed with it. Your letter also supports the inference, though less clearly, that the decision was taken by the President. But we are still left in the dark as to when it was taken and as to who, if anyone besides the President, participated in it. I am somewhat disturbed by the thought that such a decision would be taken without the participation of the Secretary of State.

Most importantly, the record is still unclear as to whether the decision applied to the program of flights as an intelligence device to be continued over an indefinite period of time, or whether it applied to specific flights included within the overall program.

A related point has to do with the question of whether or not the flights were ever suspended for other than technical reasons. Because I intend to make this correspondence public, I am inhibited from making here all the relevant statements as they appeared in the record. If you will review the classified record, however, I think you will agree with me that it is as the committee report says (p. 7): "At least thirty times."

If earlier flights had been suspended for other than technical reasons, the question arises as to why the summit conference was regarded as less important than prior events which were grounds for suspension.

I would welcome your further clarification of these matters.

Very truly yours,

J. W. FULBRIGHT,

Chairman.